

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 18, 2006

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2495

Introduced by Assembly Member Bass
*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Chan, Cohn, Evans, Leno, Mullin,
and Pavley)*

February 23, 2006

An act to amend Section 11375 of, and to add Section 11364.5 to, the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to public social services, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2495, as amended, Bass. Kin-GAP.

Existing federal law provides for allocation of federal funds through the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant program to eligible states. Existing law provides for the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program for the allocation of federal funds received through the TANF program, under which each county provides cash assistance and other benefits to qualified low-income families.

This state, under the CalWORKs program, through the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment Program, provides aid on behalf of eligible children who are placed in the home of a relative caretaker, and limits the application of the program to children who have been adjudged a dependent child of the juvenile court and whose dependency has been dismissed on or after January 1, 2000, concurrently or subsequent to the establishment of the kinship guardianship. The program is funded by state and county funding and available federal funds.

Existing law continuously appropriates state funds from the General Fund for allocation to each county for 50% of the nonfederal share of the cost of Kin-Gap payments.

Existing law establishes the Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC) program, under which counties provide payments to foster care providers, including group homes, on behalf of qualified children in foster care. The program is funded by a combination of federal, state, and county funds, with money from the General Fund being continuously appropriated to pay for the state's share of AFDC-FC costs. Under existing law, rates paid on behalf of foster children in the AFDC-FC program may include approved amounts, paid with state participation, on behalf of an AFDC-FC child requiring specialized care, or for the provision of clothing for an AFDC-FC child.

This bill would augment the amount of an aid payment under the Kin-GAP program by amounts equal to the amount of a specialized care increment or clothing ~~allowance~~ *allowances* to which the child would be entitled under the AFDC-FC program.

Existing law requires the State Department of Social Services to develop statewide standards for the Independent Living Program for emancipated foster youth established pursuant to federal law. Under existing law, a child in receipt of Kin-GAP benefits is entitled to request and receive these independent living services.

This bill would require the county to provide information regarding the availability of Independent Living Program Services to a child in receipt of Kin-GAP benefits, or his or her kinship guardian, when the child is approaching his or her 16th birthday.

By requiring the provision of additional aid under the Kin-Gap Program, this bill would result in an appropriation. By increasing the duties of counties administering the Kin-Gap Program, the bill would create a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 11364.5 is added to the Welfare and
2 Institutions Code, to read:
3 11364.5. In addition to the aid amount provided for in Section
4 11364, the rate paid for a child eligible for a Kin-GAP payment
5 shall be increased by both of the following:
6 (a) An amount equal to the amount of a specialized care
7 increment, as defined in paragraph (1) of subdivision (e) of
8 Section 11461, to which the child would be entitled under the
9 AFDC-FC program.
10 (b) An amount equal to the amount of the clothing-allowance
11 allowances, as defined in paragraph (1) of set forth in subdivision
12 (f) of Section 11461, to which the child would be entitled under
13 AFDC-FC program.
14 SEC. 2. Section 11375 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is
15 amended to read:
16 11375. The following shall apply to any child in receipt of
17 Kin-GAP benefits:
18 (a) He or she is eligible to receive independent living services
19 pursuant to Section 10609.3. When a child in receipt of Kin-GAP
20 benefits is approaching his or her 16th birthday, the county shall
21 provide the child and his or her kinship guardian with
22 information regarding the availability of these services.
23 (b) He or she may retain cash savings, not to exceed ten
24 thousand dollars (\$10,000), including interest, in addition to any
25 other property accumulated pursuant to Section 11257 or
26 11257.5.
27 SEC. 3. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
28 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
29 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
30 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
31 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

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